



Minnesota District Legislation Committee



Report to the MN District Convention– June 2026

Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave

The new Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFMLA) went into effect on January 1st. As of the middle of May more than 50,000 applications for leave had been processed by the state and about 34,000 had been approved. We encourage our churches and schools to update their personnel policies to bring them in compliance with this new law if they haven't already done so. Dave Gartner, our district Lutheran Schools coordinator, can put you in touch with an attorney for guidance.

School Safety and Security

The Minnesota Legislature did not pass a comprehensive school safety and security bill this legislative session.

New Tax-Credit Scholarship Program

The Minnesota Legislature did not approve the state participating in the new federal tax-credit scholarship program, a federal provision that allows individual taxpayers to donate up to \$1,700 annually to scholarship granting organizations to be awarded to students. The taxpayer would receive dollar for dollar up to \$1,700 in a federal tax credit.

Cuts to Funding for Private Schools Avoided (Again)

Included in the supplemental budget recently proposed by Governor Tim Walz for 2026 was a recommendation to opt the state of Minnesota into the new federal tax-credit scholarship program. The trade off was that the budget for non-public schools would have been zeroed out. This included the funding for pupil aid and transportation. The money budgeted for non-public schools would have been redirected to the state's Voluntary Prekindergarten program. Cutting the funding for nonpublic schools was proposed in the governor's budget last year, but was ultimately restored in the final budget approved by the legislature. The proposed cuts were defeated this year as well.

Conversion Therapy Ban Struck Down

On March 31st the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Colorado law banning "conversion therapy," a treatment intended to change a client's sexual orientation or gender identity. Kaley Chiles, a licensed counselor had challenged the Colorado law, claiming that it infringed on her freedom of speech. The Supreme Court agreed, striking down the law by a vote of 8-1. This decision will likely affect other states (including Minnesota) which also have laws banning "conversion therapy."

Minnesota District Legislation Committee: Nate Kallies, Rev. Ed Lehmann, Rev. Martin Bentz